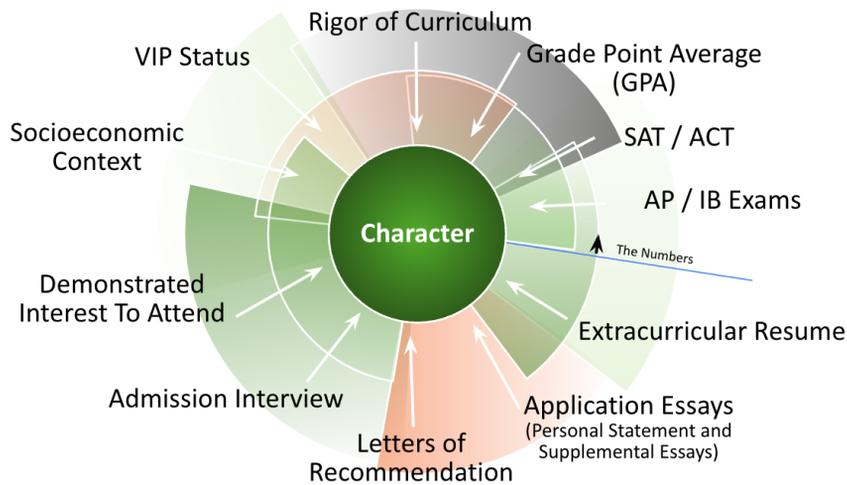




# A Holistic Approach to College Admissions



For colleges that receive thousands of applications to remain organized as they attempt to create an interesting and diverse class, they often create a system to rank applicants. These 11 distinct, yet highly interrelated, aspects of your application are evaluated in a “holistic review”



## Rigor of Curriculum

Rigor of Curriculum refers to the number and level of high school courses completed in the five core subject areas (Math, Science, English, Social Studies and Foreign Language) and academic electives.

## Grade Point Average (GPA)

Colleges often have a system to recalculate your GPA that involves unweighting your grades and removing non-core courses. It should go without saying that colleges value students that maintain a high core GPA. They are however, also interested in your grade trend.

## SAT / ACT

Many colleges and universities have taken the stance to relax their testing requirements and many will remain that way for at least the next few years and possibly beyond. There is a small, but growing, list of test-blind schools that will not consider SAT/ACT scores even if you submit them.

## AP / IB Exams

AP and IB Exams correspond to core subject areas and sometimes specific courses within core subject areas. They provide a mechanism for colleges to assess a students readiness for college level work since colleges consider these tests to account for differences in rigor and grading at different high schools.

## Extracurricular Resume

Applicants to selective colleges must complete an extracurricular resume or "activity sheet." It may include co-curricular participation and recognition, volunteer and / or paid work experience, community service, athletics and hobbies. Colleges want to know what you are passionate about outside the classroom and how you pursue those interests.

## Application Essays

Applicants are typically required to write a 650 word "personal statement" as well as a number of school specific supplemental essays. The prompts for the personal statement may vary slightly, but students are typically asked to reflect and write about a meaningful experience. All of these essays are important to colleges because it is a representation of a student's character, perspective and writing ability.

## Letters of Recommendation

Applicants to selective colleges are typically required to submit 2 letters of recommendation from teachers and 1 from a guidance counselor. In some cases an additional letter may be appropriate. Letters of recommendation are important to colleges because they provide personalized evaluations of applicants from an outside perspective.

## Admissions Interview

For many colleges that offer admission interviews, they tend to be "optional." However, they value another chance to learn about an applicant. Admission interviews can either be on campus or virtual with an admissions representative or off campus with alumni.

## Demonstrated Interest

Many selective colleges seek to admit students that are highly interested in attending their school. There are many ways to demonstrate interest, but choosing to apply through an "Early Decision" program can be one of the most convincing.

## Socioeconomics

Much importance is placed on diversity in building out a student body. In addition to race colleges may consider levels of parental education, occupations, geographical location and almost every other aspect of a student's socioeconomic background.

## VIP Status

There are some students that are considered VIPs in the college admission process. Among others, VIPs may include recruited athletes, winners of elite academic contests, successful authors and founders of successful businesses.

# Learn How to be a Savvy Applicant

[Click here to request a free initial consultation](#)

(609) 454-8520 | [college@princetoncollegeconsulting.net](mailto:college@princetoncollegeconsulting.net)